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PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Select Standing Committee on Finance and
Government Services
REPORT



2000

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December 27, 2000

To the Honourable,
The Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia
Victoria, British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the *Report* of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Fourth Session of the Thirty-Sixth Parliament.

The *Report* covers the work of the Committee on the matter of **Pre-Budget Consultation**.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Dale Lovick, MLA
Chair

Mr. Gary Farrell-Collins, MLA
Deputy Chair



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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

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(Member since November 6, 2000)

Chair

Nanaimo

Gary Farrell-Collins, MLA

Deputy Chair

Vancouver-Little Mountain

Gretchen Mann Brewin, MLA
(Member since November 6, 2000)

Victoria-Beacon Hill

John Cashore, MLA

Coquitlam-Maillardville

Ida Chong, MLA

Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Ed Conroy, MLA
(Member to November 6, 2000)

Rossland-Trail

Michael de Jong, MLA

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Evelyn Gillespie, MLA
(Member to November 6, 2000)

Cornox Valley

Bill Goodacre, MLA

Bulkley Valley-Stikine

Gerard Janssen, MLA
(Member to November 6, 2000)

Alberni

Jan Pullinger, MLA
(Member since November 6, 2000)

Cowichan-Ladysmith

Dennis Streifel, MLA
(Member since November 6, 2000)

Mission-Kent

Rick Thorpe, MLA

Okanagan-Penticton

Erda Walsh, MLA

Kootenay

David Zirnelt, MLA
(Chair and Member to November 6, 2000)

Cariboo South

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COMMITTEE RESEARCHERS

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

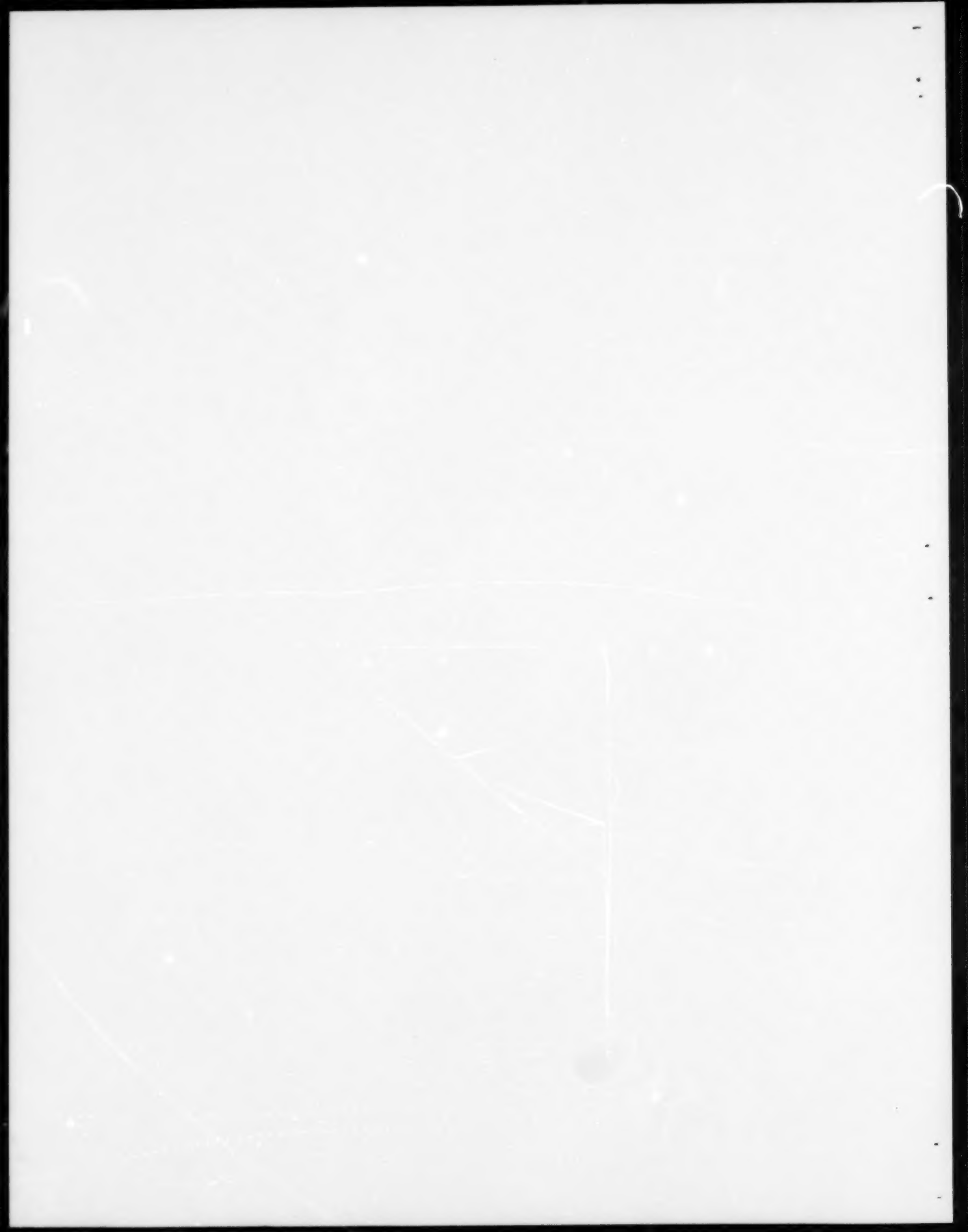
On July 6, 2000, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services was empowered to examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the pre-budget consultation report prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and, in particular to:

1. Conduct broad public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate, including, but not limited to public meetings, telephone and electronic means. The Committee shall ensure that, within practicable limits, all British Columbians wishing to make representations before the Committee be heard.
2. Make public a report by no later than December 31 on the results of those consultations.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the committee shall be empowered:

- (a) to appoint of their number, one or more subcommittees and to refer such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- (b) to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned and during any sitting of the House;
- (c) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient;
- (d) to retain such personnel as required to assist the Committee;

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.



COMMITTEE PROCESS

On July 6, 2000, in accordance with section 3 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, R.S.B.C. 2000, c.23, the Legislative Assembly empowered the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to analyse and make recommendations with respect to a pre-budget consultation paper to be prepared by the Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations.

On October 31, 2000, the Minister presented his *Budget Consultation Paper Fall 2000: Setting Priorities for a Growing Economy* to the Committee. The consultation paper included an overview of the provincial economic and fiscal position, and identified key issues related to the preparation of the 2001/02 provincial budget.

The Committee's terms of reference gave it a mandate to consult widely with British Columbians on the upcoming provincial budget and the government's fiscal policy for the coming year. To that end, the Committee published a call for written submissions in provincial newspapers and held 14 public hearings at locations throughout British Columbia during the month of November. The committee visited 13 communities during the course of its pre-budget consultations: Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Fort St. John, Prince George, Victoria, Courtenay, Mission, Vancouver, Penticton, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Kamloops, and Williams Lake. Complete transcripts of the Committee's public hearings can be viewed on the Committee's web site, at: <http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/cmt/cmt06>.

Although the Committee was unable to attend its scheduled public hearing in Grand Forks due to weather, Grand Forks witnesses submitted their presentations in writing, and Committee members have given these submissions full consideration.

In total, the Committee heard from 268 individuals and organizations, and received 228 written submissions.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of those witnesses who appeared before the Committee and others who forwarded written submissions.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Witnesses' comments have been incorporated into this report as they were presented to the Committee. Where it reiterates witnesses' views, our report does not attempt to "correct" apparent inaccuracies. By providing witnesses' views as they were expressed to the Committee, even where they lack precision, readers will better be able to observe the nature of witnesses' concerns.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

October 19, 2000	Victoria	Organizational
October 31, 2000	Victoria	Briefings
November 13, 2000	Prince Rupert	Public Hearing
November 13, 2000	Kitimat	Public Hearing
November 14, 2000	Fort St. John	Public Hearing
November 14, 2000	Prince George	Public Hearing
November 21, 2000	Victoria	Public Hearing
November 21, 2000	Courtenay	Public Hearing
November 22, 2000	Mission	Public Hearing
November 22, 2000	Vancouver	Public Hearing
November 27, 2000	Vancouver	Public Hearing
November 28, 2000	Penticton	Public Hearing
November 28, 2000	Kelowna	Public Hearing
November 29, 2000	Grand Forks	Public Hearing*
November 29, 2000	Cranbrook	Public Hearing
November 30, 2000	Kamloops	Public Hearing
November 30, 2000	Williams Lake	Public Hearing
December 22, 2000	Victoria	Report

*Meeting canceled due to bad weather.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the course of the committee's public hearing process, witnesses from around the province shared their views on budgetary and fiscal policy options and priorities for the upcoming provincial budget. Submissions received by the committee covered a broad range of topics and reflected a considerable diversity of opinion.

The committee heard distinct opinions related to the impact of tax cuts on economic performance, government revenues and government's ability to fund services and programs. A significant number of witnesses made comments regarding taxation issues, including personal income, corporate, consumption and property taxes. Amidst the diversity of opinion on these central issues and other topics, two divergent perspectives emerged. One of these perspectives put greater emphasis on the need for tax cuts, regulatory streamlining and other measures to enhance BC's competitive position and strengthen the provincial economy. Another major point of view expressed concern regarding the impact of measures such as tax cuts and put greater emphasis on the need to invest in social programs.

Health care and education were two areas of concern to a great number of witnesses appearing before the committee. Submissions dealing with health care focused on rural health care needs, potential efficiencies in the system, priorities in health spending, recruitment and retention issues, long-term care, community care and mental health. Most of these submissions requested additional funding for health care. On the topic of education, the committee heard views on the K-to-12 system, students with special needs, schools in northern and rural communities, post-secondary education, and skilled trades apprenticeship and training.

Witnesses also expressed views on a wide range of other areas of importance. Those expressing views in the area of social, environmental and justice issues addressed topics such as poverty issues, services for people with disabilities, children and families, affordable and social housing, support services for women, aboriginal communities and land claims, and the justice system. Regarding labour and employment, submissions focused on employment standards, wages and benefits, job creation, pay and employment equity, workers compensation and labour relations. Many submissions also reflected the concerns of specific sectors, including agriculture and food, transportation and highways, arts, heritage, culture, sport and recreation, resource and business sectors, and local government.

The Committee would like to thank witnesses who appeared before the Committee and others who forwarded written submissions for their significant contribution.



OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE – WHAT WE HEARD

Developing the province's annual budget is about setting priorities and making trade-offs where necessary. During the course of the committee's deliberations, we heard a wide range of views expressed by individuals and organizations regarding revenue, spending and fiscal policy options. In particular, topics raised in submissions received by the committee addressed matters relating to:

- fiscal policy
- provincial deficit and debt
- taxation, including personal income, corporate, consumption and property taxes
- streamlining and privatization
- health care funding
- education and training spending
- funding to address social, environmental and justice issues
- labour relations and employment issues
- sector-specific concerns, relating to the public service, agriculture and food, transportation and highways, arts, heritage and culture, sport and recreation, resource and business sectors
- local government.

The majority of the submissions the committee received during the public consultation process generally reflected two divergent views, a diversity which is reflected in the discussion contained throughout this report.

FISCAL POLICY

The committee heard distinct opinions relating to fiscal policy and, in particular, regarding the potential impact of tax cuts on economic performance, government revenues, and government's ability to fund services and programs.

Many witnesses argued that tax cuts for businesses and individuals would stimulate the economy by increasing disposable income and consumer spending, attracting investment and/or professionals to British Columbia. Some suggested that these tax cuts would create enough economic growth to effect a net increase in government tax revenue despite lower tax rates. Proponents of this view suggested that jurisdictions such as Ontario and Alberta represent successful models of this approach.

Some advocating tax cuts also argued that government could achieve efficiencies through measures such as privatization or contracting out, and also recommended decreasing government expenditures and prioritizing debt reduction to create a business and investment climate conducive to economic and employment growth.

A contrary view was that other factors, such as energy prices in the case of Alberta, better explained growth in the Ontario and Alberta economies. According to this view, significant tax cuts such as those proposed by some witnesses would create an immediate revenue loss, with an immediate impact on public services. It was further argued that in the longer term these tax cuts could only create enough economic growth to recover a maximum of 40 percent of lost tax revenues.

Other submissions disputed the assertion that tax rates are related to economic growth, and some argued that public spending would be a better tool to achieve social and economic objectives than would tax cuts. In particular, some submissions argued that the public sector is an economic driver in the north, second only to the resource sector, and that spending in a particular sector, such as education and training or fisheries restoration, would create the conditions for increased economic activity and employment.

DEFICIT AND DEBT

The committee received a wide range of submissions that dealt with the topic of provincial debt and deficit. Submissions were evenly divided between two points of view. The first view was that a balanced budget and paying down the province's debt should be priorities. These submissions argued that a high priority must be placed on managing and paying down the provincial debt to improve BC's competitive position or reduce impacts of debt-servicing costs. The second view expressed to the committee was that, while fiscal

responsibility is important, British Columbians place a higher priority on quality public services and infrastructure.

TAXATION

The committee received a vast number of submissions relating to taxation measures. Those submissions focused on personal income, corporate, consumption and property taxes.

Many submissions received by the committee, particularly those from business and industry organizations, argued that personal income tax rates in British Columbia are too high and must be reduced. These submissions asserted that high taxes have caused a significant decrease in British Columbians' disposable income, resulted in lower levels of consumer spending, discouraged investment in the province and had a negative impact on job creation. A significant number of submissions also expressed concern that high taxes are causing economic growth in British Columbia to lag behind growth in other jurisdictions, particularly the United States, Alberta and Ontario. Some delegations appearing before the committee recommended that the basic personal amount be raised, and that personal income surtaxes be eliminated.

A number of submissions argued that in order to remain competitive with Alberta and Ontario, which both plan to lower general corporate tax rates to 8 percent by 2004, British Columbia must reduce its corporate tax rates. Particular concern was expressed by witnesses from the northeastern part of the province, who noted that proximity to Alberta has resulted in the movement of companies, equipment and employees across the border. Some noted that globalization and technological change have made businesses increasingly mobile and able to move to jurisdictions with more competitive tax regimes, and cautioned that British Columbia must have competitive corporate taxes to be able to compete in a global economy. Many submissions also proposed that BC's corporation capital tax be phased out of existence. A submission made on behalf of the Canadian Bankers' Association recommended that the rate differential between financial institutions and general corporations be eliminated, arguing that the tax discourages reduced capital investment, employment and economic activity in the province.

The committee also received submissions suggesting that "personal and corporate income tax review committees" be established to review taxes in British Columbia, and that all future tax increases be subject to voter approval under a "Taxpayer Protection Act".

A number of submissions made more specific recommendations to government, as follows:

- extension of the provincial sales tax credit, or exemption from the tax, to more categories of business, industrial, agricultural and resource sector purchases, and to local government and health care system purchases
- elimination or reduction of fuel taxes, such as the 7percent tax on marine bunker fuel, fuel used in farming operations, aviation fuel, diesel fuel, and fuel for mining equipment
- elimination or reduction of the "luxury tax" on vehicles, or exemptions for specific use purposes (such as farming)
- a review of taxes impacting agricultural operations, in the context of competitiveness
- taxation of land-based wineries at agricultural rates
- extension of eligible activities to enable a farm land classification for property tax assessment to include log sales and sales of non-timber forest products
- elimination of the property transfer tax or, alternatively, broadening the definition of "first-time home buyer" to allow more British Columbians to qualify for exemption from the tax.

On the other hand, an equal number of submissions expressed the opinion that tax cuts may lead to reductions in health, education and social program spending. These submissions argued that BC already has competitive tax rates, and cautioned that tax cuts may lead to reduced revenues and therefore reduced services for British Columbians, increased or new user fees and an even wider gap between rich and poor. Specific concerns expressed about tax cuts were related to their impact on services relating to child care, health care, education and training, social assistance, persons with disabilities, women, crime prevention, and children, youth and families. Some of these witnesses urged the government to ensure that, if tax cuts are made, they are targeted at low- and middle-income earners. A number of submissions called on the government to introduce revenue-neutral tax reform by offering tax credits to low-income British Columbians, rather than implementing across-

the-board personal income tax cuts. It was proposed that tax credits to low-income British Columbians could be financed through the creation of an additional tax bracket for high-income earners.

In addition, the committee received submissions from individuals and organizations troubled with the notion of tax cuts targeted to corporations. These submissions asserted that corporate tax cuts are not an effective job creation strategy, but rather will decrease government revenues that are necessary to fund public services and programs, and create unfairness in the tax system between individuals and corporations. Many of these witnesses called for elimination of tax incentives and subsidies to oil and gas companies.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I – ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Due to the vast number of submissions received, and topics considered, during the public consultation process, the committee also notes that more specific comments were made regarding the following topics:

- streamlining and privatization
- health care
- education and training
- social, environmental and justice issues
- labour, employment and workers compensation
- sector-specific issues
- local government.

Details of the committee's observations on these topics are outlined below.

Streamlining And Privatization

The need for a smaller, more efficient government, in order to reduce regulatory burden and enhance competitiveness, was raised in some submissions to the committee. To this end, some suggested streamlining government by eliminating or combining some ministries, and conducting a government-wide review of regulations with a view to reducing them. Some also expressed the view that Crown assets should be privatized in order to raise government revenue.

However, an opposing perspective was also clear from other submissions received by the committee. For example, some argued that government ownership of assets, such as BC Hydro, has given the province a competitive edge, particularly in its ability to maintain low electricity prices in relation to jurisdictions with privatized electricity. Others noted that British Columbia has a low public sector employment rate in relation to other Canadian provinces, urged the government to ensure adequate public sector staffing levels, and argued that good public services attract people and investment to the province. A further suggestion included assessing all privatized and public-private joint ventures to evaluate whether they have actually saved money.

Health Care

Many submissions to the committee discussed the issue of health care in British Columbia. Significantly, almost all witnesses agreed that the health care system is facing an urgent financial crisis that is expected to worsen with the outflow of health care professionals to other jurisdictions, with the increasing demands of an aging population, and the expenses of new treatments and equipment.

The committee heard that problems confronting the health system are felt even more intensely in the rural and northern communities of the province. Rural and northern communities also reported an undersupply of specialist physicians, aging acute care equipment and infrastructures, underfunded community health and mental services, and a shortage of multi-level care facilities.

Health Care Funding

Many submissions acknowledged efforts made by the provincial government to give priority to health care funding, despite drastic reductions in federal transfer payments.

A majority of submissions expressed the view that increased funding for health care and maintenance of a universal public health care system should be a budget priority. Others, while expressing general agreement that health care is a priority, felt that the provincial government should allow a greater role for the private sector in the provision of health care in British Columbia. Some submissions argued that fostering economic growth, maintaining a balanced budget and sustaining social spending, including health spending, are equal priorities. In particular, some maintained that measures to improve the business and investment climate will ultimately strengthen BC's economy, and in turn support the public health, education and social structures that are of great value to British Columbians. Another view communicated to the committee was that health spending be

maintained, but not increased, and that government instead seek efficiencies in the health system in order to free budgeted money for needed services, staff and equipment.

Efficiency

Submissions made to the committee offered a range of recommendations for improving the efficiency of the health care system, including:

- development of a long-term health care plan, in partnership with all health stakeholders, that will foster effective budgeting
- examination of alternatives to the current fee-for-service system
- movement toward a population/needs-based funding formula
- focusing on preventive medicine and health promotion, recognizing that it is a long-term investment and results won't be immediate
- as part of a preventive orientation, investing in spending on child health and development, including prenatal support and diagnosis and services for children with developmental delays
- educating both providers and users on the appropriate use of the health care system, for example by clearly reporting where Medical Services Plan premiums are spent
- investing in telemedicine infrastructures
- continuing with health system regionalization, emphasizing regional equity in health care funding.

Priorities in Health Care Spending

Budget priorities for health spending submitted to the committee for its consideration were focused on recruitment and retention of health care professionals, investments in less costly alternatives to the acute care system, such as long-term care, home care, community health and preventive health services, and community mental health services.

Some advocated specifically for spending on:

- access to the acute care system, by reducing wait-lists and bed closures
- equipment purchases and capital spending for acute care facilities
- improvements to health care services in rural and northern communities
- addiction treatment
- children, youth and adults with special needs
- persons with disabilities
- optometry
- palliative care
- services for individuals with acquired brain injuries.

Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Professionals

The committee was struck by the number of witnesses recommending that immediate action be taken to increase the number of nurses in British Columbia. In particular, many witnesses were concerned that British Columbia is losing nurses to other jurisdictions. Adding to their concern was knowledge that 48 percent of BC's nurses are now eligible for retirement or will be eligible in the next ten years, and that there are not enough people entering the profession to replace those nurses when they retire.

Various submissions recommended that government:

- provide more permanent, full-time nursing positions instead of overusing casual nurses, increase wages for nurses to competitive levels, including on-call, night shift and weekend shift premiums, and provide adequate mileage allowances for those working in community nursing
- allow retired registered nurses to return to work on a casual basis at the same pay level
- allow RNs, LPNs and LTC aides to be utilized to the full extent of their training, allowing for upgrading when required, and provide a larger role for nurse-practitioners
- expand college nursing programs and make degree nursing optional, rather than mandatory
- expand training programs for LPNs, LTC aides, orderlies and other nursing assistants
- recruit licensed practical nurses for registered nursing.

Many submissions stated that a key budget priority should be recruitment and retention not just of registered nurses, but health care professionals in all fields, including doctors, licensed practical nurses (LPNs), physiotherapists, optometrists, long term care aides (LTC aides), and health science professionals.

Recommendations were that government:

- target advanced education funding toward training health care professionals, including doctors, nurses, LTC aides, physiotherapists, and health science professionals
- provide a forgivable student loan tied to future employment within the British Columbia health care system
- create medical residency programs in BC's rural and northern communities, which will help those regions retain new physicians
- facilitate the process of licensing health care professionals coming to BC from other countries, so that they can become employed in BC's health care system more quickly
- find new payment models for physicians, such as salaries
- create an office of the "consultant director of health human resource planning", mandated to liaise with the federal government, unions and professional associations regarding long-term plans for health care staffing.

Long-term Care

A significant number of submissions also called for more funding for the long-term care system. Witnesses told the committee that the cost of private long-term care is outside the reach of many elderly British Columbians, and that therefore, more publicly funded alternatives should be made available.

Submissions to the committee recommended that government examine innovative alternatives for new facilities, such as assisted living arrangements for the frail and elderly. Some suggested development of a long-term strategy of targeted, multi-year funding for long-term care, involving innovative approaches to building not-for-profit facilities. Others proposed allocating more funding to regional health authorities for long-term care beds. It was also suggested that government should provide strong support for hospice-palliative care, which is more cost-effective on a per bed basis than the acute care system.

Community Care

A substantial number of submissions recommended that government invest more in community health care, particularly home care, in order to keep people out of the more expensive acute care system. In particular, the Action Committee of People with Disabilities advocated that the government ensure adequate home support services are available to people with disabilities, and that regional funding allocations include funds specifically earmarked for this purpose. Submissions also proposed that government examine innovative ways to deliver health care, including integrated community and continuing care, emergency response teams, outreach and prevention programs. It was also proposed that more be done to link housing and health care supports.

Mental Health

Submissions addressing mental health services, including BC's Mental Health Advocate, recommended that government live up to its commitments in the 1998 Mental Health Plan—which outlines the development of a comprehensive, integrated regional mental health care system—by taking a multi-year approach to implementation, with specific objectives and measurable targets.

Health Linkages

A number of submissions emphasized that the social determinants of physical and mental health, such as poverty, education, and employment, must be addressed in an intersectoral strategy that guides and coordinates the activities of all relevant government ministries towards population health.

Education And Training

Elementary and Secondary Schools

Many submissions to the committee discussed the importance of public education, noting that a strong public education system fosters economic growth, social equality, and a healthy population. Some submissions

asserted that education should be the number one budget priority, and that adequate funding for public education is an investment that must be given higher priority than tax cuts. Others told the committee that while funding for public education should be a priority, spending on education should not exceed government revenues. Some witnesses expressed concern that schools have been forced to supplement government funding with corporate donations, which often comes with conditions attached that may contradict the values that educators are trying to promote.

The committee received the following recommendations concerning education funding:

- move the funding formula away from the per-student allocation, which cannot adequately account for facilities costs, and implement a funding formula based on instructional units
- allow schools boards to raise taxes locally
- if cuts to education funding are necessary, target cuts to private schools.

Numerous proposals were made as to funding priorities within the education budget, including funding to:

- reduce class sizes
- restore teachers' salaries to levels comparable with other jurisdictions
- educate more teachers in BC and attract more teachers to the province, especially to rural and northern communities
- eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic processes, like the accreditation process and the foundation skills assessment
- increase support staff, including teaching assistants, special education assistants and custodians
- repair and maintain the health of school buildings.

Students with Special Needs

Most submissions addressing the subject of education commented on the need to improve funding for special education programs. Various submissions contained recommendations that additional funding go toward improving early intervention and educational services for students with special needs, including learning or behavioural difficulties. Submissions noted that both diagnostic services and teaching services are underfunded and do not meet actual demands for special education. Some submissions received by the committee argued that special educational funding is needed to provide education to children with fetal alcohol syndrome, attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

It was also recommended that the education budget provide adequate funding to enable disabled students to access services in integrated school settings.

Finally, alternative schooling options, such as high school completion programs for youth, were considered significant and in need of adequate funding.

Schools in Northern and Rural Communities

A number of witnesses spoke on the disparity in education funding levels between urban and rural and northern communities. Schools in rural and northern communities spend an increasing amount of their budgets on heating and busing costs. Amalgamation of school districts has also contributed to resource constraints. Witnesses explained that infrastructure costs are eating into the teaching budget to such a degree that programs outside of core curriculum areas, such as elective programs (band, fine arts, physical education), learning assistance programs, library programs, and computer training programs, have been weakened.

It was suggested that allowing school boards to carry budget surpluses over to the next year would help them maintain contingency funds for things like higher energy costs.

Post-Secondary Education and Training

The committee heard that in what is now a knowledge-based economy, post-secondary training and education has become increasingly important to both economic development and to individuals' workforce participation. To that end, most witnesses supported the continuation of the tuition freeze at BC universities and colleges, recommended improvements to British Columbians' post-secondary participation rates, and emphasized the need to plan for the post-secondary system's long-term needs.

Tuition Fees and Student Loans

Most witnesses speaking on post-secondary education supported continuation of the tuition freeze at BC universities and colleges, which they viewed as a measure to equalize access to post-secondary education. Witnesses from rural and northern communities commented that this is particularly important for students in their areas, whose expenses are increased by the need to travel away from home to obtain post-secondary education.

Submissions received by the committee recommended that government consider the following specific options:

- maintain the tuition freeze, and/or work toward phasing-out tuition fees
- standardize tuition fees among BC's post-secondary educational institutions
- institute a tax credit program to assist students with repayments of student loans, increase the non-repayable portions of student assistance at provincial and federal levels, and/or eliminate interest charges on student loans
- conduct a review regarding the long-term direction of grant programs.

Universities

A number of submissions emphasized the need for long-term planning and funding to maintain the competitive position of BC's universities. The University Presidents' Council of BC told the committee that British Columbia's post-secondary system must prepare now for increased demands, as the 18 to 24 age group will increase by over 15 percent in the next decade and other age groups are increasingly recognizing the benefits of post-secondary education.

Many submissions noted that BC's post-secondary institutions will be competing with other provinces for faculty as large numbers of post-secondary teachers retire in the next 10 to 15 years, and recommended that salaries, benefits, research facilities and research funding must be funded to levels competitive with other jurisdictions.

Other budget priorities for post-secondary education which were identified by representatives of the universities sector included:

- increasing core funding
- increasing funding for new student spaces
- maintaining comparable research resources and infrastructure, including libraries and laboratory facilities to curb the outflow of students and faculty from the University of Northern BC to BC's southern universities
- establishing a tripartite consultation process, involving government, business and post-secondary institutions to assist in identifying post-secondary education and training needs for the province
- planning for long-term capital spending
- funding for comprehensive course programming throughout the year, including summer
- increasing per-student funding to competitive levels
- reintroducing a matched funding program for capital projects
- supporting technology transfer from universities to the private sector
- establishing a BC Research Challenge Fund to increase funding for research
- supporting BC's research infrastructure through the BC Knowledge Development Fund
- expand the physician residency program of the UNBC and the northern interior regional health board.

University Colleges, Colleges and Institutes

The committee heard that university colleges, colleges and institutes are also expecting demographic and economic changes to rapidly increase demands for their post-secondary programs. Submissions recommended that government assist university colleges, colleges and institutes to plan for the future by providing adequate, long-term funding to those institutions. Many submissions focused on the importance of these post-secondary educational institutions in northern and rural communities. In particular, the committee heard that adult basic education and retraining demands have increased with layoffs in the resource sectors, and that post-secondary institutions in less urban areas can link social infrastructures with economic revitalization. It was also suggested that programming for regional colleges be expanded based on local needs, such as forest or wood technology, nursing and ecotourism.

Various submissions from the university college, college and institute sector recommended that government:

- increase funding for capital spending in the university college, college and institute sector in the province
- provide dedicated and adequate funding to allow university colleges to fulfill their regional service mandates
- work toward equitable per capita funding between universities and university colleges
- standardize the assessment of fees for programs, whether provided by universities, university colleges, colleges or institutes
- implement a recruitment and retention strategy for the university college, college and institute system
- provide a bargaining framework that recognizes the need for significant improvements in salaries and working conditions at the university college, college and institute level
- increase funding for research and research resources and facilities at university colleges, colleges and institutes
- increase funding for adult basic education programs to meet demand for these programs
- undertake a study of short- and long-term training and post-secondary education needs for northern communities
- fund post-secondary education for aboriginal communities in their own communities and partnerships with other learning institutions.

Skilled Trades Apprenticeship and Training

The Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission has estimated that, by 2010, the number of people retiring will exceed the number entering the labour market. Submissions emphasized that government must address the potential shortage of skilled tradespeople with adequate funding for skilled trades apprenticeship and training programs. One submission noted that this funding will especially assist northern communities, whose resource-based economies increasingly depend upon skilled trades.

More specific recommendations included:

- developing and funding a long-term plan so that the province will have adequate numbers of skilled individuals to address future labour market needs
- making trades apprenticeship and training available outside of urban centres
- providing tax incentives for businesses to provide apprenticeship training
- encouraging youth to enter trades
- increasing wages for skilled trades.

Social, Environmental and Justice Issues

Poverty issues

Many submissions expressed concern about poverty issues, including specific concerns regarding the homeless, the urban poor, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, children, women and seniors. Some acknowledged positive steps taken by government to address poverty, for instance, in the areas of child care and social housing. However, many urged the government to do more. Recommendations included increasing investment in social housing, eliminating fees for courses in public schools, establishing an urban poverty fund, ensuring resources are available for language and skills training for new immigrants and increasing public support for child care. Another point of view was that poverty should be addressed by focusing on measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

While the view was expressed that some would like to see income assistance decreased, most submissions recommended that both assistance rates and services for recipients should increase. One submission suggested that some, such as single parents with young children or persons collecting disability benefits, have little choice but to rely on income assistance. Many also highlighted specific needs of people receiving income assistance, particularly housing, and provided further recommendations. These included eliminating the clawback of federal child tax benefits, providing free transit for recipients, and providing more incentives and opportunities for education, training and employment.

Services for People with Disabilities

Numerous submissions called for increased funding of services for people with disabilities. Concerns included adequate disability benefits, affordable and accessible housing and transportation, home support services, life skills programs and alternatives to group homes.

Children, Youth and Families

A wide range of issues were raised in this area, including child care, child protection, parenting education, early intervention services and programs, services for youth in care, programs for at-risk youth, alcohol and drug residential treatment beds, and suicide prevention and intervention programs for youth. Some witnesses expressed support for steps the government has taken, such as the province's new program of publicly funded child care for school-aged children, but called for an expansion of existing programs or services. Others expressed concern about staffing and funding levels or unmet needs, and urged government to increase funding or provide new services.

Recommendations included:

- broadening accessibility to BC's publicly supported child care program, particularly by expanding coverage to younger children, providing evening and weekend care, providing funding for an early childhood development care program, and developing a timetable for a universal child care strategy
- ensuring universal access to quality parenting education opportunities and increasing funding for development-delayed programs
- funding community school programs to enable development of programs such as parenting and family support and educational upgrading, to fill gaps in social support services in smaller communities
- reinstating funding for comprehensive, rather than piecemeal, early intervention for learning difficulties
- providing funding to address increased needs for teacher's aides, counselors, life skills workers and employment-readiness trainers
- increasing funding for contracted services, including parent-teen conflict counselors and educational services not associated with child protection
- increasing the number of social worker positions for child protection and addressing retention as well as recruitment issues
- increasing staffing levels to expand integration of services to address problems such as substance abuse, interpersonal property violence and other criminal activity and self-harming behaviour
- adequately funding services for youth in care, such as independent living, drug, alcohol and mental health services, and services for former youth in care
- increasing funding for programs for at-risk youth and support for youth shelters
- providing ongoing funding for suicide prevention and suicide intervention programs
- supporting social planning at the local level, for example, through funding of social planners for local government.

Some submissions, including that of British Columbia's Child, Youth and Family Advocate, also recommended that the Ministry for Children and Families prepare a needs-based budget for consideration in future provincial budgeting to help address diverse needs in these areas.

Affordable Housing and Social Housing

The committee received a number of submissions expressing concern about homelessness and/or affordable housing. Some drew attention to particular needs, such as wheelchair accessibility, seniors housing, and affordable housing for women trying to leave abusive spouses. Approximately half of submissions addressing the issue of affordable housing advocated continued and increased investment in social housing. Other recommendations included reducing regulation and red tape to allow the private sector to provide affordable housing and working with municipalities to protect existing rental housing and encourage zoning that allows for low-income rental units.

Support Services for Women

Many of the concerns expressed in this area were related to violence against women. Witnesses encouraged government to increase funding for violence prevention, women's shelters and second stage housing, legal aid, and services such as counseling, advocacy, life skills and employment programs. Particular concern was expressed regarding the high workloads of employees such as counselors and advocates and the inability to meet demand for services. Other priorities identified included measures to foster empowerment, including:

- pay equity
- affordable housing
- income assistance rates
- increased availability of drug and alcohol treatment facilities.

Aboriginal Communities, Treaty Process and Land Claims

Some witnesses encouraged government to move faster to settle aboriginal land claims, either to reduce poverty in aboriginal communities or to promote economic stability in the resource sector or provincial economy. Others drew attention to aboriginal health and education needs and called on government to address these needs, for instance, by providing funding for programs to train first nations teachers and for aboriginal post-secondary institutions.

Environment

Submissions to the committee dealing with environment focused on:

- funding and staff requirements
- monitoring activities and health concerns
- fisheries restoration and wildlife protection
- environmental and funding agencies
- parks
- economic development
- stewardship of resources
- the land and resource management planning (LRMP) process
- environmental tax shifting.

Many submissions encouraged government to increase funding and/or staffing levels for monitoring of forestry and silviculture practices, protection of air and water quality, wildlife and habitat protection, fisheries restoration and parks management. While many recommendations focused on ministry activities, support was also expressed for funding environmental restoration partnerships either by increasing funding to local environmental agencies directly, or funding intermediary funding agencies. Some submissions commended government for its actions to increase the number of protected areas in the province. However, many expressed concern about funding for parks management and stewardship of this resource.

While some witnesses encouraged government to allow oil and gas exploration off the north coast of BC and expansion of aquaculture on the north coast, others advised a cautionary approach in these areas. Similarly, there was a difference of opinion on the LRMP process. A representative of the mining industry suggested that the process has been biased towards environmental rather than economic and social concerns, whereas other witnesses expressed greater support for the process and encouraged government to increase funding for continuation of planning and for implementation. The committee heard from some individuals and organizations that investing in environment would benefit tourism, and from others who recommended more emphasis on renewable energy, green technologies and other green initiatives.

The committee received submissions expressing a variety of views on the topic of proposals for environmental tax-shifting. Environmental tax-shifting, which is revenue-neutral, involves shifting taxes away from environmentally desirable behaviour toward behaviours that are harmful to the environment. Representatives of automobile dealers and business organizations were strongly opposed to feebates (fees on purchases of high fuel consumption vehicles, offset by rebates on purchases of fuel-efficient vehicles), arguing that they would impose unfair penalties on those requiring larger vehicles for business or personal reasons, and that such measures would not have any significant effect in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. Conversely, many other individuals and organizations were supportive of environmental tax-shifting initiatives, including feebates, arguing that those choosing to engage in activities that harm the environment must abide by the "polluter pays" principle.

Justice Issues

Recommendations in the area of justice included increasing the availability of legal aid services, focusing on a prevention approach to crime and reconsidering the province's tax on legal services. Some witnesses emphasized the legal aid needs of battered women, as well as other marginalized groups. Reconsideration of the taxation of legal services was suggested in part because of concerns about effects on affordability of legal services, and on awards and damages recovery in personal injury cases. A request was also put forward by a witness from the Midway RCMP detachment for funding to provide an emergency response vehicle that would carry "jaws of life" equipment and to create a local police-based victims' services assistance program.

Labour, Employment and Workers Compensation Issues

Employment Standards, Wages and Benefits

A significant number of submissions expressed concern that increasing the province's minimum wage would have a significant detrimental effect on the competitiveness of BC businesses, and act as a disincentive to hiring. A few recommended eliminating it altogether. Representatives of the BC Chamber of Commerce also recommended that the government extend employment standards exemptions it introduced for the high-tech industry in 1999 to the business community at large. In contrast, the committee also heard from many witnesses expressing support for actions the government has taken to increase the minimum wage. Some recommended that the minimum wage be increased further to provide a living wage for families.

Job Creation

Recommended approaches to job creation were varied. Many witnesses called on government to reduce taxes and red tape to enable the private sector to prosper and create jobs. Others emphasized the value of public sector investment—such as education, health, fisheries, environment, heritage or infrastructure—as an economic driver and job creator. Yet another approach recommended establishment of fully funded job creation partnership projects to provide living wage work experience to displaced resource industry workers and others.

Pay and Employment Equity

Representatives of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation recommended an end to affirmative action and pay equity programs. However, representatives from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (BC Division) and others argued that the government should enact compulsory, proactive pay equity legislation for the broader public sector, including municipalities, and the private sector, in order to ensure a level of fairness in society. Another recommendation was that government create a reserve fund to ensure that municipalities achieve their pay equity commitments.

Workers Compensation

Some submissions expressed concern that workers compensation premiums and the volume and complexity of workers compensation regulations negatively affect businesses' ability to operate and put them at a competitive disadvantage. Another view expressed was that funding to the workers compensation system should be increased to address the backlog of appeals. It was also suggested that the government pass legislation to act on the findings of the Royal Commission on Workers Compensation in British Columbia.

Labour Relations

A small number of submissions contained recommendations that the government take a firm position in the negotiation of collective agreements. One view was that government should ensure public sector collective agreements and wage settlements are targeted not to exceed settlements in the private sector. Another recommendation was that the government require secret ballots for certification votes. A representative of the British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council proposed that the government increase funding for the Labour Relations Board, in order to improve timeliness in dealing with complaints lodged by both management and labour. The president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour emphasized that a healthy economy is created by ensuring people have money to spend, and that people will have money to spend if collective agreements are negotiated to ensure that money stays in the province rather than going to shareholders in other countries.

Sector-specific Issues

The committee received submissions on a wide range of sector-specific issues as they relate to budgetary and fiscal matters.

Agriculture and Food

A number of submissions urged the government to restore the agriculture budget to early 1990s levels, in particular to provide funding for research and development in the areas of biotechnology, integrated pest management, marketing and food safety, as well as to enhance agricultural extension services to farming communities. However, some opposed funding for research and development in biotechnology. They argued that funding must instead be directed toward creating a sustainable food system in British Columbia through community-based food and agricultural programs and strategies, and introduction of mandatory food product labeling for genetically modified foods.

Other suggestions to boost what is widely perceived as a suffering industry included:

- competitive or advantageous freight rates on BC Rail
- compensation to farmers for maintaining land in the Agricultural Land Reserve
- establishment of a venture capital fund for British Columbia agri-business
- funding to support organic producers and the Certified Organic Associations of BC
- continued support and encouragement for programs, processes and activities such as farm safety net programs, the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment process, the "Buy BC" program, BC processing and value-added activities, the Quality Grape and Wine Development Fund, the Sterile Insect Release program, and marketing initiatives for British Columbia wines
- reduction of taxes, fees and regulatory burden on the agriculture and food industry
- assistance to tree fruit growers wishing to move into grape production
- establishment of a "seasonal farm labour action team" to increase the supply of seasonal farm labour
- funding to restore the state of Crown ranges used for livestock grazing.

Transportation and Highways

Numerous submissions emphasized that increased funding to upgrade British Columbia's transportation infrastructure should be a priority in the upcoming budget, in order to ensure transportation routes are safe, provide adequate access to the province's natural resources, facilitate economic development in the province, and prevent increased repair costs in the long term. The majority of comments on this topic came from individuals and organizations in rural and semi-rural areas of the province. Others recommended increased attention be focused on standards enforcement and maintenance activities by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. Opposing views were expressed regarding whether levies, such as the proposed TransLink vehicle levy, should be considered as a means to offset the costs of transportation infrastructure upgrading.

The committee also received submissions identifying the following specific items as priorities:

- initiation of an independent review of the mandate, structure, processes and strategic plan of TransLink, a regional transportation authority established in 1999 and responsible for public transit roads in the Greater Vancouver Regional District
- reduction of tolls on the Coquihalla highway, or re-investment of tolls in the province's highway system
- continued work on a corridor management plan for the South Okanagan
- construction of a debris basin on Highway 97A near Swansea Point
- development of a comprehensive provincial transportation infrastructure plan
- assurance of uninterrupted and affordable ferry service, construction of two or three new "C-class" ferries, and additional ferry service on northern routes.

Arts, Heritage and Culture

The government's role in promoting arts, heritage and culture in British Columbia was emphasized in numerous submissions to the committee. It was argued that investment in arts, heritage and culture generates social, environmental and economic benefits for the province, but that despite these benefits the sector has been chronically underfunded. In particular, many submissions pointed to the success of the film, television and new media industries in BC, and emphasized the importance of providing the same level of support for community arts, heritage and culture development, and regional arts councils.

Other specific items identified as priorities in submissions received by the committee included:

- development of an arts, heritage and culture plan for the province
- increased funding for the BC Festival of the Arts and the British Columbia Arts Council
- review of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture cultural services branch funding strategy
- encouraging better reporting by municipalities regarding funding allocated to arts and culture
- increased funding for the BC Heritage Trust, the heritage branch in the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, and for restoration, development and maintenance of heritage sites
- supporting expansion of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre
- re-visiting the use of lottery revenues to fund arts, heritage and culture in BC
- providing secure funding to support provincial and community museums
- increasing provincial funding for libraries in the province, and exploring alternative methods of providing library services.

Sport and Recreation

A small number of submissions addressed the issue of sport and recreation in British Columbia. Submissions on this topic included recommendations that the government:

- provide increased grant opportunities to post-secondary athletes, and community sports organizations
- restore funding to the BC Games Society, to allow it to continue to pursue its strategic plan
- provide financial support for the development of an integrated sport system for the province to eliminate gaps and duplication.

Energy

Differing views were relayed to the committee regarding the oil and gas industry in the province. Some individuals and organizations recommended an end to the moratorium on oil and gas exploration off the north coast, while others commended the government for taking a cautious approach on this issue and called for an end to the subsidization of the oil and gas industry.

On a related note, the committee heard calls from numerous British Columbians for the provision of heating subsidies or rebates to British Columbians, particularly low-income families, those receiving social assistance and those residing in colder regions of the province. Some also recommended rebates for industry, business and local governments, as well as increased school heating budgets. Others encouraged the government to end the freeze on BC Hydro rates, and allow the BC Utilities Commission to proceed with a rate review.

Mining

Submissions from individuals and mining organizations in the province expressed concern that there has been a downward trend in the number of operating mines in British Columbia over the past decade, and advocated for more regulatory and financial support for the industry, particularly in the area of mineral exploration. In particular, representatives of the Mining Association of British Columbia and the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines suggested that increased investment in mining exploration could generate significant tax revenues for the government, and proposed that the government take steps to:

- provide assured access to land and security of tenure in the face of provincial land use planning processes
- increase funding to expand the prospectors' assistance program
- resolve aboriginal interests in mineral claims
- streamline mining regulations
- create a more competitive tax regime.

The committee also heard from individuals proposing that the government allocate more resources to compensation for mineral title holders affected by the establishment of protected areas in the province.

Forests

The committee received a wide range of submissions regarding British Columbia's forest industry. Some advocated for more cooperation between industry and government regarding re-negotiation of the Canada - United States softwood lumber agreement, and for regionally equitable quotas under the agreement, while others advocated freer trade in lumber with the United States.

The committee also heard recommendations that staffing levels in the Ministry of Forests be increased to allow proper inspection and monitoring of forestry activities. Other suggestions put forward included:

- revision of the stumpage system to make it more market-driven, and elimination of the "waterbed" effect (whereby stumpage rates are lowered for timber of marginal quality due to fire and pest infestations, necessitating an increase in stumpage rates for other timber)
- streamlining forestry regulations, by applying a "business lens", and taking steps toward a more results-oriented *Forest Practices Code*
- development of a comprehensive industrial strategy for the forest industry, with particular attention to the value-added sector
- dismantling of Forest Renewal BC, with forestry revenues instead to be directed through a branch of the Ministry of Forests for reinvestment on a regional basis.

Fisheries

Some submissions received by the committee noted the difficulties faced by the commercial fishing and fish-processing industries, but also argued that these are industries with untapped potential that the government must continue to support. Individuals, particularly those residing on the north coast, stated their support for the government's efforts to strengthen the industry through funding of Fisheries Renewal BC, support for development of community partnership groups, and protection, enhancement and production of fish stocks. Others proposed more financial and educational support for those working in the industry, through improved income assistance rates, literacy and skills training and special needs education. The current chair of the board of Fisheries Renewal BC advocated for community-owned fishing licences, and community quotas, in order to address the problem of fishing industry business being lured away from the north coast of the province.

Divergent views were expressed regarding development of the aquaculture industry in the province, with some submissions calling for government support in this area and some advocating for a more cautious approach and stronger regulation of the aquaculture industry.

Small Business

Taxation, fiscal policy and labour and employment issues were foremost among concerns expressed to the committee from those in the small business sector, and are discussed in more detail above in this report in the "Taxation", "Fiscal Policy" and "Labour and Employment Issues" sections.

Other small business issues raised as priorities for the government in its upcoming budget included:

- reduction of the regulatory burden on small business, through continued initiatives such as the establishment of "one-stop business registration centres", and allocation of funds to the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture specifically to eliminate over-regulation and red tape
- implementation of a pilot of the "business lens" process as recommended by the Business Task Force appointed by the Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations in 1998
- provision of the resources needed to enable municipalities to work in partnership with local businesses to further local economic development
- raising the sales cap for the Working Opportunity Fund, and providing for an increase in the value of tax credits offered to investors in the fund by the provincial and federal governments.

Tourism and Hospitality Industry

A significant number of submissions noted the increasing importance of tourism to British Columbia's economy, but cautioned that there is increased competition in the international tourism marketplace. These witnesses recommended that the government ensure adequate resources for the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture and Tourism British Columbia. In particular, many suggested that a greater proportion of hotel room tax collected be targeted toward funding for Tourism BC's marketing efforts, and that British Columbia ensure its tax regime is competitive in order to attract people and businesses into the province. Some submissions made more specific recommendations, including:

- elimination of the provincial sales tax on liquor sales at the point of sale in liquor licensees' establishments, instead imposing a requirement that establishments pay the tax on their liquor purchases
- support for winery and cultural heritage tourism in the province
- an end to regulatory exemptions for, and subsidization of, BC Parks campgrounds
- construction of more visitor information centres
- support for expansion of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre

- revitalization of "traditional" tourism industries such as fishing and guided hunting
- increased funding to the tourism learning system, to address the labour needs of the industry
- regulatory changes to the method of calculating beer markup, to recognize differences in economies of scale between regional, commercial and craft beer brewers, and to provide cottage brewers with a larger discount on the sale of products through on-site retail stores.

Construction and Real Estate Industry

Representatives of construction industry and real estate organizations in British Columbia expressed concern about low housing starts and lack of construction activity in the province over the past decade. Submissions from these groups focused on the province's tax system, and comments related to that topic may be found in the "Taxation" section of this report. The committee also received more specific submissions on the topic of construction and real estate, recommending that the government:

- repeal the *Skills Development and Fair Wage Act* which sets a minimum wage on public sector construction projects
- continue its planned capital spending program
- end restrictions on open tendering by eliminating "union-only" provisions in public sector construction projects
- implement contractor licensing requirements for public sector infrastructure projects to ensure quality work on these projects and to address the underground economy in construction
- partner with the British Columbia branch of the Canadian Home Builders' Association to develop a campaign to restore consumer confidence.

The committee also received submissions from those affected by the "leaky condo" crisis, noting the impact of the crisis on housing starts and property values in the province. Submissions addressing this issue recommended that the provincial government negotiate with the federal government to obtain disaster financial assistance or, alternatively, provide compensation to those affected by the crisis.

Insurance Industry

Submissions relating specifically to the insurance industry proposed:

- investment of \$100 million to \$150 million per year in a "Natural Disaster Protection Fund"
- funding for disaster mitigation activities, such as seismic upgrading of schools and community centres throughout British Columbia
- resolution of earthquake insurance issues in the *Insurance Act*.

High Technology Industry

Many submissions identified government support for development of British Columbia's high technology industry as a priority. In particular, the committee received a submission recommending that the government conduct target marketing to Canadians working in senior executive positions in the California high technology industry, in order to attract high technology companies into the province. The government was also urged to encourage the removal of municipal obstacles to the establishment of high technology zones and establish a competitive tax system to attract high technology investment in British Columbia. Other submissions called on the government to ensure the province has an adequate supply of high technology professionals by providing financial support allowing high technology professionals to upgrade their skills.

Automobile Industry

The committee received a number of submissions made on behalf of British Columbia automobile dealers. These and other submissions voiced concern about proposed environmental tax-shifting measures, and those concerns are reflected in the discussion contained in the "Environment" section of this report. Industry representatives also proposed that the government:

- update the regulatory framework under which BC automobile dealers operate, by amending the *Motor Dealer Act* and transferring responsibility for administration of the Act to an "enterprise-focused" ministry
- establish a "Motor Dealer Standards Council" to provide consumers with greater protection.

Local Government

Submissions addressing the topic of local government expressed some concern that local governments be maintained or strengthened through funding mechanisms. For example, it was submitted that the cost of economic development services has been downloaded onto municipalities, which has limited their resources to support economic development initiatives. Other submissions warned that long-term underfunding of municipal infrastructure, such as drinking water systems, puts them at risk of privatization. Another perspective offered was that, while provincial revenue-sharing programs for incorporated areas have been beneficial, they do not extend to unincorporated areas, improvement districts or specified areas. The BC Chamber of Commerce recommended that the provincial budget include local government funding that is predictable, flexible and sufficient to enable local governments to carry out their operations.

The committee also received more specific recommendations on this topic, in particular that government:

- increase funding to municipalities and restore grants to municipalities and regional districts
- re-evaluate the funding formula for infrastructure grants
- institute local financing for municipal infrastructures
- amend the *Municipal Act* to allow for public-private partnerships as an alternative funding mechanism for municipalities, and provide municipalities with the resources they need to work on economic development and job creation in partnership with local businesses
- allow fire departments to access the Purchasing Commission in order to provide these agencies with provincial sales tax exemptions and cheaper bulk rates for goods
- change the *Local Government Act* to require communities to address community safety in their Official Community Plans
- fund municipalities to the extent necessary for the development of natural disaster mitigation projects
- investigate the cost savings to be gained by sharing administrative tasks, such as payroll, among school districts, and municipal health, highways or other agencies.

APPENDIX II -WITNESS LIST

	Witness Information	Submission No.
Karen Abramsen Council of Canadians, Kelowna Chapter	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-250
Jacquie Ackerly Together Against Poverty Society	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-28
Lyle Acton	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Rick Adrian Odlum Brown		FGS-sub-265
Peter Affleck The Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-252
John Allen B.C. Lodging and Campgrounds Association	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-140
Laurie Anderson Vancouver School Board, School District No. 39		FGS-sub-354
Margaret Anderson University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Rod Andrew University College of the Cariboo, Board of Governors	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
A.E. Andruschak School District 42, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows		FGS-sub-45
Anonymous		FGS-sub-297 FGS-sub-281
Saul Arbess Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-40
John Argue Working Group on Poverty	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-184
Pat Armstrong		FGS-sub-106
Peter Ashmore East Kootenay Child Care Planning Council	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
George Atamanenko West Chilcotin Museum and Historical Society	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Don Avison University Presidents' Council	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-32
Lisa Ayrton High Technology Facilities Group, CB Richard Ellis Limited		FGS-sub-133
Perry Bahniwal		FGS-sub-320
Jag Bains		FGS-sub-3163
Leslie Baird Cumberland Heritage Commission	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-48

Nini Baird British Columbia Arts Council	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-177
Dennis Baker		FGS-sub-107
Valoree Baker Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-231
James Balderson Coalition of Leaky Condo Owners	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-205
Doreen Ball		FGS-sub-74
Alan Bangay		FGS-sub-111
Valerie Bannatyne		FGS-sub-338
Mark Bannister Salmon Arm Chevrolet Oldsmobile Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.		FGS-sub-307
Herb Barbolet Farm Folk/City Folk Society	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-176
John Barker Stakeholder Group for the Elimination of the B.C. Tax on Marine Bunker Fuel	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-190
Roger Barnsley University College of the Cariboo, Board of Governors	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Aneal Basi		FGS-sub-151
James Bast	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-276
Linnea Battel Xá:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-286
Mary Elizabeth Bayer Culture Acts Now	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-42
Brent Beach		FGS-sub-172
Mary Belcher		FGS-sub-218
Patrick Bell Kettle Valley Steam Railway	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-210
Rick Belmont	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Larry Berg Vancouver International Airport Authority		FGS-sub-147
John Bergenski East Kootenay Environmental Society		FGS-sub-326
Dan Berkshire	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Sylvia Bigras	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Katy Bindon Okanagan University College	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-207

Richard Birley Peace River Organic Producers' Association	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-14
Margaret Birrell Individualized Funding Project		FGS-sub-346
David Blacoe		FGS-sub-73
Avril Blair B.C. Nurses Union	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-275
Darren Blois		FGS-sub-149
Klaus Blume	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
David Borth British Columbia Cattlemen's Association		FGS-sub-290
John Bowers	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-234
Johan Boyden Northern Undergraduate Student Society	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Derrick Braby Braby Motors		FGS-sub-306
Mike Braby Braby Motors		FGS-sub-306
Victor Brandl	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
Robert Breen MDS Labs	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-182
Tony Briglio North Coast Community Health Council	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	FGS-sub-23
John Brink Brink Forest Products Ltd.		FGS-sub-64
Gladys Brown		FGS-sub-68
Les Brown		FGS-sub-88
Sherrie Brown		FGS-sub-76
Tony Brummell South Thompson Watershed Committee	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Lynda Brummitt Langley Family Services		FGS-sub-391
Mike Bryan		FGS-sub-83
Betty Bryce	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Abra Brynne		FGS-sub-328
Daniel Buck Northwest Community College Student Association	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Pat Burnip		FGS-sub-77

Elaine Burns Board of School Trustees, School District No. 73 – Kamloops/Thompson		FGS-sub-97
Jim Burslem Campbell River-Nootka Community Health Council	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-46
Ken Burt Okanagan University College	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Eldon Cameron Kamloops-Thompson Teachers Association	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-232
Mayor Don Cameron Municipality of Summerland	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Neil Campbell Davis	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-206
Linda Campbell Coast Mountains School District		FGS-sub-352
Michael Campbell	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Vivienne Candy	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-5
John Cantlon	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
Julie Carew Confederation of Canadian Unions, BC Council		FGS-sub-156
Marcia Carlson Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre Society		FGS-sub-58
Betty Carmelo East Kootenay Child Care Planning Council	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Donalda Carson	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-10
Beth Carter East Kootenay Child Care Planning Council	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Jennifer Case Cariboo Economic Action Forum		FGS-sub-350
Peter Casement Rocky Mountaineer Railtours		FGS-sub-219
Bill Caulfield Certified General Accounts Association of British Columbia		FGS-sub-192
Guy Cawley Cariboo Park Home Society		FGS-sub-327
Rick Chadwick		FGS-sub-70
Ann Chambers	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Miriam Chandia		FGS-sub-383

Cheryl Chapman Cariboo Economic Action Forum		FGS-sub-350
Cheryl Chapman Xats'ull First Nation		FGS-sub-351
Peter Chataway Central Okanagan Heritage Society	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	
Harris Chen		FGS-sub-386
Alex Chmilar		FGS-sub-324
Richard Chmilar		FGS-sub-323
Bruce Christensen Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-98
Brian Churchill	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-18
Bob Clarke Automotive Retailers Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-254
David Clarke Cariboo-Chilcotin Fish Enhancement Society		FGS-sub-280
David Clarke Cariboo-Chilcotin Fish Enhancement Society; Cariboo Economic Action Forum	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Robert Clift Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C.	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-31
Eric Clough		FGS-sub-100
Marcy Cohen	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Dan Colton 3540 Investments Ltd., Super 8 Motel - Sicamous		FGS-sub-65
Mike Conroy	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-261
Nathalie Cooke Haven Society	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-49
Jim Cooperman Shuswap Environmental Action Society		FGS-sub-191
J. Paul Cormier		FGS-sub-336
Jacqueline Corno	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
Jennifer Coulson The Vancouver Food Policy Organization		FGS-sub-329
Darwin Coxson University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Allan Coyle Okanagan University College	28-Nov-00 Penticton	

Margaret Crawford Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre Society		FGS-sub-58
Michael Crawford Council of Canadians, Kamloops Chapter	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-222
Dave Crown B.C. Liquor Licensee and Retailers Association	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-198
Iain Cunningham Federation of Child & Family Services of BC		FGS-sub-360
Meaghan Cursons	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Wayne Dahlen Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-52
Dan Dalton	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Vicky Dalton Cranbrook Women's Resource Society		FGS-sub-295
William D. Daniels	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Ruth Ann Darnall	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-12
Guy Dauncey Sustainable Communities Consultancy		FGS-sub-293
Gavin Davidson		FGS-sub-89
Jack Davidson BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association		FGS-sub-57
Marianne Davies	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
H. de Boer		FGS-sub-309
D. de Boer		FGS-sub-309
Ed Deak	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-279
Cameron Dean		FGS-sub-239
Jean-Ann Debrececi		FGS-sub-273
V. Delorme Prince Rupert District Teacher's Union		FGS-sub-25
Dr. Michael A. Dennis B.C. Association of Optometrists	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-3
Judy Derrington	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-225
Harley Desjarlais Metis Provincial Council of British Columbia		FGS-sub-193
Mary Desprez ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-38

Lois Dettling		FGS-sub-69
David Devan ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-38
Mark Dickie Del-Tech Industries Inc.	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-8
Lorna Dittmar	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Vicki Dobbyn Community Services Society		FGS-sub-394
Muriel Dodge University College of the Cariboo	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Paddy Doherty Certified Organic Associations of B.C.	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-308
Pat Dool Professional Employees International Union, Local 378	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Shirley Dorais University College of the Cariboo	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Brian D. Downie	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-15
Shirley Doyle	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Vickie Dueck		FGS-sub-334
Peggy Eburne		FGS-sub-312
Bob Eby Okanagan University College	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Anne Edwards B.C. Heritage Trust	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-258
Odd Eidsvik	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	FGS-sub-21
Joan Elford Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-54
Robin Elliott Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-201
Ruweyda Elmi		FGS-sub-366
Sally Emory Northern Environmental Action Team	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
Terry Engler International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local		FGS-sub-146
Jim Engleson Canfor Corporation	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-6
Kevin Evans Retail Council of Canada	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-187

Rudy Eylmann Coalition of Leaky Condo Owners	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-205
Steve Fachler		FGS-sub-343
Penny Fahlman College of New Caledonia	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
David Fairey Trade Union Research Bureau	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-165
Ken Favrholt B.C. Museums Association	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Ken Favrholt Secwepemc Cultural Education Society		FGS-sub-224
Mark Feldinger Canfor Corporation	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-6
Rick Felton Odlum Brown		FGS-sub-265
Grace Fenn		FGS-sub-166
Jack Albert Ferraro	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-51
Roseline Ferré Wood Works		FGS-sub-26
Chris Ferrigan Cariboo Student Society		FGS-sub-353
Corp. George Fielding		FGS-sub-137
Gwen Filippelli South Fraser Health Region		FGS-sub-160
Jock Finlayson Business Council of British Columbia	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-181
Colleen Fitzpatrick	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Craig Fitzsimmons Chartered Accountants of BC		FGS-sub-95
Lisa Fleming		FGS-sub-321
Mark Flett Okanagan Film Commission	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-246
Brenda Flynn	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-53
Lorna Foisy	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Lulu Forseille Cariboo Park Home Society		FGS-sub-327
Bob Forshaw		FGS-sub-119
Bill Foster Mining Association of B.C.	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-262

Jack Frank		FGS-sub-335
Diana French Museum of the Cariboo-Chilcotin	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Todd French Upper Fraser and Nechako Fisheries Council		FGS-sub-304
Ann Frost Advanced Education Council	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-30
Linda Frost		FGS-sub-132
Shelley Galling		FGS-sub-237
Penny Gambell B.C. Fruit Growers Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-249
Cathy Garvey Fraser Valley Health Region	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-285
Dr. Paul Geneau B.C. Association of Optometrists		FGS-sub-362
Dr. John E. Gentles B.C. Association of Optometrists	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-17
Nina George Mountain Sky Soaps		FGS-sub-99
Rick Gibson	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-274
Brad Gilbert		FGS-sub-125
Pat Gilbert		FGS-sub-126
Rowland Gilbert		FGS-sub-126
Chris Gilbertson The Canal Flats Training Center		FGS-sub-331
Bikrum Gill		FGS-sub-75
Nab Gill		FGS-sub-318
Phil Glaister Mission Community Services	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-283
Michael Goldberg Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-197
Sharon Goldberg Surrey Women's Centre Society		FGS-sub-163
Elaine Golds Burke Mountain Naturalists		FGS-sub-301
Rick Goodacre Culture Acts Now	21-Nov-00 Victoria	
Eric Goodfellow Old Age Pensioners Organization		FGS-sub-108
Deborah Gordon		FGS-sub-114

Lorne Grasley Mining Association of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-174
John Grasty Coalition of Leaky Condo Owners	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-205
D. Gray Penticton Regional Hospital Alumni Association		FGS-sub-236
David Gray Aspen Planers	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Bill Green	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-271
Sharon Gregson Parents for Child Care; Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-179
Paul Griffin Canadian Bankers Association	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-200
Mark Grimm Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Bert Groenenberg Cariboo-Chilcotin Fish Enhancement Society	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-280
Donna Hagan Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Antoinette Halberstadt		FGS-sub-319
Nancy Hall Mental Health Advocate of B.C.	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-233
Heather Hamilton		FGS-sub-150
Soren Hammerberg Hammerberg & Company		FGS-sub-62
Marilyn Hannah CUPE	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Juergen Hansen The Green Group Consultants	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-213
Dr. Jim Hargrave B.C. Association of Optometrists	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Madeline Hargrave		FGS-sub-169
Capt. John Harker Salvation Army Miracle Valley Treatment Centre	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-303
Madeleine Harlamovs		FGS-sub-76
Chuck Harris		FGS-sub-74
Don Harrison		FGS-sub-321
Stephen Harvey Campbell River, Courtenay and District Labour Council		FGS-sub-135
Ken Haynes Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-211

Jim Hellman North Coast Fisheries Renewal Council	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Murray Helmer Cariboo-Chilcotin Teachers' Association		FGS-sub-289
Harvey Hendrickson		FGS-sub-85
Sandra Henson Penticton & District Community Resources Society		FGS-sub-390
Sean Hennessey		FGS-sub-101
George Heyman B.C. Government and Service Employees Union	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-43
Pat Hibbitts University of Northern British Columbia	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-11
Robin Hill B.C. Real Estate Association	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-189
Campbell Hobson		FGS-sub-105
Philip Hochstein Independent Contractors and Businesses Association	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-36
Doug Hockley		FGS-sub-131
Mike Holland	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Wil Holland British Columbia Old Age Pensioners Organization		FGS-sub-60
Lee Holm Kootenay Livestock Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-270
R.G. (Bob) Holtby	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-247
Hazel Huckvale Cariboo Park Home Society		FGS-sub-327
Louise Hudson Richmond Women's Resource Centre		FGS-sub-153
Steven Hui Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-164
Russell Husch B.C. Agriculture Council	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-244
Leonardo Hutchinson		FGS-sub-340
Chief Ronald Ignace Secwepemc Cultural Education Society	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Elizabeth Innes Natural Law Party of Canada	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Bob Janicki		FGS-sub-142
John Jensen	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	

Jonathan Jensen iCompass Technologies	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Julia Jiong		FGS-sub-370
Ross Johnson Cisco Systems Ltd.	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-29
Ross Johnson		FGS-sub-87
Brynne O. Jones	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-7
Peter Jones Advanced Education Council	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-30
Glenn Kaipio		FGS-sub-96
Joy Kaplar	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Paul Kariya Fisheries Renewal B.C.	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-203
Kimiko Karpoff Lower Mainland Network for Affordable Housing		FGS-sub-314
Lydia Kasianchuk	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-103
Rick Kasper MLA, Malahat-Juan de Fuca		FGS-sub-152
Fred Katzel		FGS-sub-112
Robert Katzer		FGS-sub-93
Russell Katzer		FGS-sub-94
Marvin Kavanagh		FGS-sub-128
Meredith Keery	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Stephanie Kellington The National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Vancouver Office		FGS-sub-302
Frank Kelly		FGS-sub-116
Graham Kelsey	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-90
Denny Kemprud Boundary Child and Youth Committee		FGS-sub-287
Karen Kersey		FGS-sub-311
William Kershaw		FGS-sub-196
Amy Kidd	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
P. Killman		FGS-sub-117
Ross Kinasevich		FGS-sub-299

Mayor Colin Kinsley City of Prince George	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Angie Kirby Federation of B.C. Youth in Care Networks	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Seth Klein Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-183
Lorri Knapp B.C. Nurses Union	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Marilynn Knoch British Columbia Printing and Imaging Association		FGS-sub-104
Sandy Knowles	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Ted Koelewyn	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-288
Ouida Koetsier B.C. Nurses Union	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-212
A.J.P. Kormendy Film Commission, Thompson-Nicola Regional District		FGS-sub-59
Ron Koros The Powell River Association for Community Living		FGS-sub-122
Murry Krause College of New Caledonia	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Dr. Trevor Kreke B.C. Association of Optometrists	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Andrea Krog Boundary Museum Society		FGS-sub-67
Dr. Eugene A. Krupa Kelowna Health Centre	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-248
Joan Lackman South Fraser Health Region		FGS-sub-160
Robert Laing B.C. Real Estate Association	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-189
N. Lakbir		FGS-sub-377
Jerry Lampert Business Council of British Columbia	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-181
Paul Landry B.C. Trucking Association	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-366
Flore Langeslag North Okanagan Labour Council	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-253
Sue Laroque	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Bruce Leahy	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	

Marc Lee Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-183
Lynden Lehman B.C. Nurses Union	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Kim Levie East Kootenay Child Care Planning Council	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Brian Lewis The Working Opportunity Fund		FGS-sub-345
Sonia Ley		FGS-sub-382
Jim Leyden The Circle of Hope Coalition Society		FGS-sub-300
Endre Lillejord	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Ken Lippett	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Maria Lironi Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-317
Margaret Little Peace River North Teachers' Association	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-16
Karin Litzcke		FGS-sub-238
Lisa Liu		FGS-sub-369
Debie Liva Mission Community Services	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-283
Nick Loenen Fair Voting BC		FGS-sub-145
Joanne Long		FGS-sub-168
Susan Low South Islands Aquatic Stewardship Society		FGS-sub-138
Glen Lucas B.C. Fruit Growers Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-249
Marilyn Luscombe Selkirk College		FGS-sub-136
Lucien Macelet	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	
Don Mackay		FGS-sub-298
Madelyn MacKay Early Childhood Educators of BC, West Kootenay Branch		FGS-sub-291
Halle MacMullen	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Ron Maguire Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-221

Mary Mahon Jones Council of Tourism Associations of B.C.	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-41
Ed Main		FGS-sub-342
Kelly Mann BC Games		FGS-sub-292
Jenny Mantyka Federation of B.C. Youth in Care Networks	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Lance Marcer Waldo Stockbreeders Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-267
Carmen Maretic Compensation and Accountability to Soaked Homeowners Society	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-204
David Marsden Kelowna Chamber of Commerce	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-330
Judy Martin Cariboo Family Enrichment Centre		FGS-sub-392
Ian May Council of Forest Industries		FGS-sub-389
Roger Mayer South Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Karen McAthy Northwest Community College Student Association	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Marguerite McCrae	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Kelly McDonald	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-359
Jaimie McEvoy Canadian Federation of Students	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-44
Tim McEwan Business Council of British Columbia		FGS-sub-181
Jean McIlwee South Fraser Health Region		FGS-sub-160
Velma McKay College of the Rockies Faculty Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-264
Sandi McLean		FGS-sub-92
Ivy McLeod Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Eric McMahon Cowichan Valley School District		FGS-sub-358
Dick McMaster	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-220
Stan McMaster I.W.A. Canada Local 1-405		FGS-sub-78
Bill McSeveney Campbell River-Nootka Community Health Council	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-46

James Mecham		FGS-sub-71
Thom Meier Kitimat Chamber of Commerce	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Peter Melhuish Gateway Society		FGS-sub-393
Ray Melnyk		FGS-sub-344
Cheryl Menhinick	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Mark Milke Canadian Taxpayers Federation	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-39
Geoff Millar Summerland Chamber of Economic Development and Tourism	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-214
John Milne		FGS-sub-123
Mike Milnechuk		FGS-sub-237
Frank Mitchell		FGS-sub-109
Craig Monley Central Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs		FGS-sub-365
Kathleen Moore		FGS-sub-82
Rosanne Moran College-Institute Educators Association		FGS-sub-185
Debbie Morgan B.C. Nurses Union	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Brent Morrison	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Donna Morton Northwest Environment Watch BC		FGS-sub-357
Jimmy Muhlebach Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-255
Janice Muir Kamloops	30-Nov-00	
Dr. Harry F. Murphy B.C. Association of Optometrists	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	FGS-sub-19
Sue Murphy Physiotherapy Association of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-188
Ann Murray Federation of B.C. Naturalists	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-202
Dr. Louise Myshak B.C. Association of Optometrists	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	
Arnie Nagy	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Mahin Naziripour		FGS-sub-384

Joanne Neubauer Action Committee of People with Disabilities	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-35
Elmer O'Hanley	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-227
Kathleen O'Malley The New Rural Partnerships Project		FGS-sub-154
Barry O'Neill Canadian Union of Public Employees	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-37
Bert Oehlke		FGS-sub-130
Jeff Omland	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-209
Wiho Papenbrock	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Debbie Paquette Nanaimo Women's Resources Society	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-50
Dave Park Vancouver Board of Trade		FGS-sub-180
Zane Parker Northwest Environment Watch BC		FGS-sub-357
Dianne Parkinson		FGS-sub-341
Joyce Parsons South Okanagan Women In Need Society	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-217
Laurie Parsons Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Taruna Patch		FGS-sub-378
Julie Paterson	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Wendy Pattenden PacificSport National Sport Centre, Greater Vancouver		FGS-sub-294
Mike Patterson	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-259
Carol Patton B.C. Nurses Union	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Mayor Mike Pearce City of Penticton	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Bob Peart Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-27
Bob Pelling	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-230
Wayne Pelter School District #6 (Rocky Mountain)		FGS-sub-355
Jing Peng		FGS-sub-368

Hans Penner South Cariboo Labour Council	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-278
Wayne Penney B.C. Hospice-Palliative Care Association	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-199
George Penno Land and Agricultural Co. of Canada		FGS-sub-348
Joss Penny B.C. Lodging and Campgrounds Association	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-140
David Perry	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-208
Nancy Perry Grand Forks Early Intervention Task Force and the FAS/E Prevention Committee		FGS-sub-144
Laura Petrie Central Interior Regional Arts Council		FGS-sub-242
Don Philpott	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	FGS-sub-1
Carmen Pickering B.C. Nurses Union	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Lynn Pont Cariboo Economic Action Forum	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Thal Poonian	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-229
Sue Popesku	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
K. Poucher Poucher Holdings Ltd.		FGS-sub-61
Donna Powell		FGS-sub-339
Pat Powell		FGS-sub-155
Vicki Presley Odlum Brown		FGS-sub-265
Joyce Preston Child, Youth and Family Advocate	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-34
Janet Prichard		FGS-sub-313
Angela Prider		FGS-sub-121
Dennis Prouse Insurance Bureau of Canada	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-175
Carmen Purdy	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-269
Lory Quarenghi	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	
Murray Ramsden Okanagan-Similkameen Health Region	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	

Iris Reamsbottom Hospital Employees Union	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Maryann Reavie Central Okanagan Teachers' Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-257
Randy Reay Kootenay Livestock Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-270
Richard Rees Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-201
Mary Reid South Fraser Health Region		FGS-sub-160
Dr. Robert N. Reid B.C. Association of Optometrists	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-3
Paul Reinholdt	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-216
Bob Remple	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Darcy Rezak Vancouver Board of Trade	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-180
Leeann Ring		FGS-sub-322
Bill Robertson Council of Canadians, Surrey/Langley/White Rock Chapter	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-305
Terry Robertson	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Marni Robinson		FGS-sub-240
Pat Robinson Nanaimo Women's Resources Society	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-50
Dominique Roelants Malaspina University College Faculty Association	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Don Ross Craft Brewers Association of B.C.		FGS-sub-333
Jo Rothenburger Kamloops Community Advocacy Council	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Roxanne Round Kelowna	28-Nov-00	
Frank Rowe Terrace District Teachers Union	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	FGS-sub-2
Brian Ruddell	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-13
Robin Rutherford		FGS-sub-173
George Sajna		FGS-sub-118
Peggy Salaberry Central Okanagan Teachers' Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-257

Mona Sali Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association		FGS-sub-255
Saku Samanathan		FGS-sub-376
Patricia Samson		FGS-sub-79
Suromitra Sanatani Canadian Federation of Independent Business	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-178
Todd Sanderson Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-243
Amarjeet Sanghera		FGS-sub-170
Eric Sannes Canadian Parents For French - Williams Lake Chapter	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	FGS-sub-277
Marilee Schelp		FGS-sub-371
Mary Scott Sicamous and District Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-310
William Scott Richmond Youth Service Agency		FGS-sub-364
Doug Seeley Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-40
Rick Sentes Penticton Auto Dealers Association	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Sherry Sethen Prince George Chamber of Commerce	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-20
Jonathan Seymour Stakeholder Group for the Elimination of the B.C. Tax on Marine Bunker Fuel	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Anne Shannon	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-282
John Shantz British Columbia Wine Institute	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-245
Dr. Lal Sharma		FGS-sub-139
Muneesh Sharma		FGS-sub-296
Kelly Shaughnessy Canadian Bankers Association	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Maureen Shaw College-Institute Educators Association	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-185
Lisette Shewfelt South Okanagan-Similkameen Brain Injury Society	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Mayor Tom Shields Town of Osoyoos	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Khosa Shüa		FGS-sub-387
Pat Shuttleworth B.C. Nurses Union	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-266
Savik Sidhu		FGS-sub-171

Tom Sigurdson B.C. and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-347
Vicki Simmons School District #72 (Campbell River)		FGS-sub-356
Yvonne Simmons Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	FGS-sub-24
Robert Simon Secwepemc Cultural Education Society	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-223
Steve Simons	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-47
David Sinclair		FGS-sub-134
Jim Sinclair B.C. Federation of Labour	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-315
G. Sivasini		FGS-sub-380
Brian Skakur	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-9
Jan Skiber The Canal Flats Training Center		FGS-sub-331
Helen Skidmore		FGS-sub-124
Ross Slezak	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Don Sloan Okanagan-Similkameen Parks Society	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Dave Smith	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Scott Smith		FGS-sub-113
William Smith		FGS-sub-110
J. Roger Solly	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Hanna Son		FGS-sub-372
Marlene Speed BCGEU Victoria Area Office		FGS-sub-241
Heather Spicer	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Claus Spiekermann Grand Forks and District Public Library Board of Trustees		FGS-sub-63
Don Spratt	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Robert Starr		FGS-sub-81
Mark Startup Retail Merchants Association of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-186

Joyce Statton Physiotherapy Association of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-188
Sandra Stevenson Sport BC		FGS-sub-80
Cindy Stewart Health Sciences Association of British Columbia		FGS-sub-162
Ian Stewart B.C. Automobile Dealers Association	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-33
Tony Stewart British Columbia Wine Institute	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-245
Nancy Stibbard Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Task Force		FGS-sub-349
Stefan Stipp		FGS-sub-115
Doug Stokes Elk Valley Mine Managers Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-263
Todd Stone iCompass Technologies	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-228
Jackie Stonier		FGS-sub-325
Ingrid Storch B.C. Nurses Union	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Bruce Strachan	14-Nov-00 Prince George	FGS-sub-4
Faye Street Waldo Stockbreeders Association	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-267
Patricia Stuart-Clarke Prince George Receiving Home Society		FGS-sub-363
Jack Syan Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped		FGS-sub-66
Eleanor Summer South Okanagan Women In Need Society	28-Nov-00 Penticton	
Tasha Sutcliffe	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Paul Sutherland		FGS-sub-141
Steve Swenson School District #38 Richmond		FGS-sub-332
Carol Tahsuda Peace River North Teachers' Association	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	FGS-sub-16
Stanley Tan		FGS-sub-385
Paul Taylor B.C. Automobile Dealers Association	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-33
Seti Tekia		FGS-sub-381
Jane Templeman Haven Society	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	FGS-sub-49

Merle Terlesky Kamloops Pro-Life Society	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-226
Bob Thomas British Columbia Lodging and Campgrounds Association		FGS-sub-159
Bob Thomas Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Bill Thompson		FGS-sub-127
Calvin Thompson	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Glenn Thompson 4 Seasons Publishing and Consulting, Inc.		FGS-sub-91
Peter Thomson Council of Canadians, Surrey/Langley/White Rock Chapter	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-56
Steve Thomson B.C. Agriculture Council	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-244
Joy Thorkelson	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	
Walter Thorne	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Maureen Tickner Cariboo Park Home Society		FGS-sub-327
Casey Timmermans	21-Nov-00 Courtenay	
Maria Tokarchuk Health Sciences Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-251
Grant Tomlinson		FGS-sub-167
Maureen Topping		FGS-sub-102
Bob Trudeau	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	
Corrine Tucker Citizens of Revelstoke for a Safe Highway		FGS-sub-157
Nicholas Tuele B.C. Museums Association	21-Nov-00 Victoria	
Patty Turner	30-Nov-00 Kamloops	FGS-sub-230
Sheila Turner Canadian Mental Health Association	28-Nov-00 Kelowna	FGS-sub-256
Suzanne Veit Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors		FGS-sub-148
Harvey Venier	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-268
Shirley Viens	14-Nov-00 Fort St. John	

Lorna Waghorn-Kidd	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Kathryn Wagner School District 42, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-45
Kevin Walker Council of Tourism Associations of B.C.	21-Nov-00 Victoria	FGS-sub-41
Linda Walker Mission Community Services Food Security Forum	22-Nov-00 Mission	
Richard Walker		FGS-sub-120
Rick Walker East Kootenay Chamber of Mines		FGS-sub-272
Rick Walker	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	
Alex Wallace Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society		FGS-sub-143
Karl Warner The Law Society of British Columbia		FGS-sub-161
Marilyn Warren School District 78, Fraser-Cascade	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-284
Frances Wasserslein British Columbia Arts Council		FGS-sub-177
Gordon Watson	27-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Les Wattmough	13-Nov-00 Kitimat	
Caroline Waugh		FGS-sub-86
Leslie Waugh		FGS-sub-86
Ronald Webber The Corporation of the City of Courtenay		FGS-sub-361
Terry Weninger College of New Caledonia	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Pat Westheuser Central Okanagan Naturalists Club		FGS-sub-84
Jason Wheeldon Cranbrook and District Chamber of Commerce	29-Nov-00 Cranbrook	FGS-sub-260
M. Whitemarsh Canadian Home Builders' Association		FGS-sub-194
Brad Whittaker Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-159
Glen Whyte		FGS-sub-72
Robert Wickson Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce		FGS-sub-317

Ben Williams Canadian Federation of Students	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	
Alan Wilson Retail Merchants Association of B.C.	22-Nov-00 Vancouver	FGS-sub-186
Allan Wilson Prince Rupert Public Library	13-Nov-00 Prince Rupert	FGS-sub-22
Lisa Wilson		FGS-sub-129
John Winter British Columbia Chamber of Commerce	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-55
Stanley Wong		FGS-sub-373
Brent Wood Odlum Brown		FGS-sub-265
Jeanette Wood Council of Canadians, Penticton Chapter	28-Nov-00 Penticton	FGS-sub-215
Rob Wood Nelson & Area Consumer/Family Mental Health Advisory Council		FGS-sub-158
Henry Wrinch		FGS-sub-367
Kitty Wu		FGS-sub-374
Gordon Wyatt		FGS-sub-337
Andrew Wynn-Williams British Columbia Chamber of Commerce	22-Nov-00 Mission	FGS-sub-55
Debra Yearley	14-Nov-00 Prince George	
Cathy Yip		FGS-sub-375
Helena Yu		FGS-sub-388
Susan Zagrodney B.C. Nurses Union	30-Nov-00 Williams Lake	
Krista Zala LifeCycles Project Society		FGS-sub-195
Hui Zheng		FGS-sub-379